



Urgent: Getting Cooking Energy Right in the Post-2015 Indicators

The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (Alliance) and ENERGIA International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy (ENERGIA) stand together for the consistent and accurate inclusion of cooking energy, a particularly important concern for women in the developing world, throughout the Post-2015 indicator framework.

Close to half of the world's population lives in energy poverty, severely impacting their way of life and opportunities, while also hampering economic growth, environmental sustainability, public health, and gender equality. Alternatively, improved access to clean, sustainable energy drives positive impacts in all of these areas. Both cooking energy and electricity are critical to achieving universal energy access [Target 7.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the first goal of the UN initiative on Sustainable Energy for All] and the entire Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda. This memo focuses on getting cooking energy right in the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators in order to advance household energy access and spur transformative strides in sustainable development.

KEY STATISTICS ON COOKING AROUND THE WORLD

3 billion	Number of people in the world using polluting, inefficient stoves and fuels to cook each day
4.3 million	Number of people who die prematurely each year from exposure to household air pollution
Up to 25%	Percentage of black carbon emissions attributed to cooking smoke
Up to 5	Number of hours a day that women spend collecting fuel for cooking

In the [proposed priority indicator list](#) put forward to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) in June, critical components of energy access and related issues were left out or misrepresented. The [second iteration of this list](#), released in July, made improvements but still does not enable the indicator framework to measure household energy accurately and effectively. In particular, the indicator on cooking energy under Goal 7 is flawed and requires revisions.

Given the outstanding issues, the Alliance and ENERGIA are making recommendations on how to ensure that we get cooking energy right. We need to capitalize on this opportunity to prioritize and measure household cooking energy to enable success across the Sustainable Development Agenda.

Recommendations

Goal 7 on Energy: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

The first target of this goal (7.1) is to “By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.” Two indicators are proposed, one to measure access to electricity (7.1.1) and one to measure progress in access to cooking energy (7.1.2). At present, however, the indicator on cooking energy (7.1.2) is severely limited to measuring the transition from solid fuels (coal, wood, charcoal, etc.) to non-solid fuels (kerosene, LPG, ethanol, electricity, etc.). It reads “Percentage of population with primary reliance on non-solid fuels (%).”

This indicator would not provide satisfactory data to understand progress in improving cooking energy. We need to measure not only the fuel households are using to cook, but also the technologies they are using. This is particularly important because many households, particularly in Sub-Saharan African and South Asia, will continue to use solid-fuels

for cooking but with more efficient technologies that will allow for the realization of environmental and socio-economic benefits. The indicator as it currently stands also does not account for the fact that kerosene, while a liquid fuel, has proven negative health impacts, such as increased rates of tuberculosis and poisonings, and significantly contributes to black carbon emissions.

Cooking energy is a complex issue. We need a strong indicator to measure our progress in improving cooking energy. The Alliance and ENERGIA urge the IAEG-SDGs to include **“Percentage of households primarily using clean and efficient cooking fuels and technologies”** as Indicator 7.1.2 under Goal 7, Target 7.1.

This indicator better captures the spectrum of household energy solutions and measures “use,” which is more practical to measure than “reliance” or “access.” This more exact indicator will enable a better understanding of household energy needs and inform policy makers and development practitioners. Also note that we recommend measuring cooking energy by household, not by population, since people access cooking energy at the household level.

The data for this indicator can be drawn from [The Sustainable Energy for All Global Tracking Framework](#). Other than being a key source of data, the Tracking Framework strongly recommends accounting for both access to cooking energy and electricity when measuring energy access, and specifically notes the importance of measuring access not as a binary, but along a spectrum considering the array of technologies and fuels in use around the world. The Framework was produced by the World Bank, ESMAP, and the International Energy Agency with input from over 20 other expert organizations, including the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves and ENERGIA.

Goal 3 on Health: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages

Over 7 million premature deaths can be attributed to air pollution every year, 4.3 million of which are from household air pollution. Target 3.9 is to “By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.” The current indicator (3.9.1) drafted to measure this target reads “Population in urban areas exposed to outdoor air pollution levels above WHO guideline levels.” We must consider the effects of both ambient and household air pollution in all settings to reduce the number of deaths and illnesses caused by exposure to air pollution. However, the suggested priority indicator on pollution only measures outdoor pollution in urban settings.

We recommend simplifying the indicator so that it accounts for air pollution in urban, peri-urban, and rural settings. The revised indicator 3.9.1 reads **“Mean air pollution of particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5).”** This indicator would be measured by WHO and highly utilized by policymakers.

The indicator framework must also account for mortality from air pollution in order to measure against Target 3.9. Therefore, the Alliance and ENERGIA urge the IAEG-SDGs to include the following indicator 3.9.2: **“Number of premature deaths attributable to ambient and household air pollution.”** The WHO already measures this indicator as a part of the Burden of Disease, so this indicator would not impose new work on statistics offices. It would, however, help the international community prioritize combating the fourth greatest health risk for death in the world.

Goal 5 on Gender Equality: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The Alliance and ENERGIA support the inclusion of indicator 5.4.1 on unpaid work, “Average weekly hours spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location” which measures Target 5.4: “Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.”

In addition, we support proposed indicator 5.4.2 “Proportion of household within 15 minutes of nearest water source” if it is expanded to include fuel for cooking as well as water. The revised indicator should be **“Proportion of households within 15 minutes of fuel and clean water.”** Collecting fuel can take as much time or more than collecting water. Measuring this time spent is an important step towards reducing the hours of drudgery that people, largely women and

girls, spend collecting the natural resources that they depend on. These indicators would be measured via Demographic and Health Surveys.

Conclusion

The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves and ENERGIA urge the IAEG-SDGs to include the above recommended indicators as global priority indicators in the Post-2015 framework. Access to safe, sustainable cooking energy is a basic need. It is also imperative to reaching the universal energy access target of SDG 7 and Sustainable Energy for All's mission. Additionally, universal access to cooking energy is essential to reducing global mortality and improving overall wellbeing, and therefore, it is imperative that pollution caused from inefficient cooking is properly represented under SDG 3 on Health. Without adequate cooking energy, women in particular will have difficulty fully participating in educational and income-generating opportunities. Reaching SDG 5 on gender equality and women's empowerment requires reducing the amount of time that women and girls are spending collecting fuel and cooking. Getting cooking energy right in the Post-2015 indicator framework means including the robust indicators proposed in this memo under Goal 7 on Energy, Goal 3 on Health, and Goal 5 on Gender Equality.

Summary of Indicator Recommendations

Goal and Target	Current indicator as written in the second iteration of this proposed indicator list	Indicators recommended by the Alliance and ENERGIA
Goal 7, Target 7.1	"Percentage of population with primary reliance on non-solid fuels (%)."	"Percentage of households primarily using clean and efficient cooking fuels and technologies"
Goal 3, Target 3.9	"Population in urban areas exposed to outdoor air pollution levels above WHO guideline levels."	"Mean air pollution of particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5)."
Goal 3, Target 3.9	None	"Number of premature deaths attributable to ambient and household air pollution."
Goal 5, Target 5.4	"Proportion of household within 15 minutes of nearest water source." (Recommended by UN Women, but not currently listed as priority indicator)	"Proportion of households within 15 minutes of fuel and clean water."

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About the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves:

The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves is a public-private partnership hosted by the United Nations Foundation that seeks to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and protect the environment by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions. The Alliance's 100 by '20 goal calls for 100 million households to adopt clean and efficient cookstoves and fuels by 2020. The Alliance is working with its public, private, and non-profit partners to accelerate the production, deployment, and use of clean cookstoves and fuels in developing countries. For more information, please visit www.cleancookstoves.org.

About ENERGIA International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy

ENERGIA is an International Network of like-minded organizations and professionals, active in 22 countries in Asia and Africa. Our vision is that women and men have equal and equitable access to and control over sustainable energy services as an essential human right to development.

To achieve this, we:

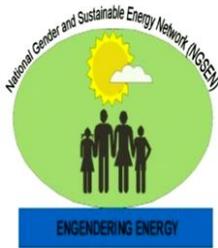
- contribute to energy access for all by scaling up the delivery of energy services through women-led micro and small businesses,
- advocate for the inclusion of engendered approaches in energy policies and programs,
- provide the evidence base for improving energy investment effectiveness through research, and
- raise awareness and enhance knowledge of gender and energy related issues through networking and knowledge products.

For more information, please visit www.energia.org.

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